

Application No. 09/344,826
Amendment dated May 4, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated March 4, 2004

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A method for halftoning an input image comprising the steps of:

halftoning the input image using one of at least two spatial halftone techniques, wherein each spatial halftone technique has at least one halftone parameter that differs from the halftone parameters in the other spatial halftone techniques; and

repeating the step of halftoning the input image, wherein the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques changes from the previously used spatial halftone technique after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of successively outputting the halftoned input images.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the step of repeating the step of halftoning the input image using one of at least two spatial halftone techniques comprises the step of repeating the step of halftoning the input image wherein the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques changes from the previously used spatial halftone technique every time the input image is halftoned.

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Claim 5 (Currently amended): The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of reading the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques from a memory prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of determining the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques in real time prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the step of halftoning the input image using one of at least two spatial halftone techniques comprises the step of halftoning the input image using at least one transformed halftone technique.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the at least two spatial halftone techniques are comprised of the same spatial halftone ~~method~~ technique having at least one differing halftone parameter.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the at least two spatial halftone techniques are comprised of different spatial halftone techniques ~~methods~~.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): An apparatus for halftoning an input image comprising:

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means for halftoning the input image using one of at least two spatial halftone techniques, wherein each spatial halftone technique has at least one halftone parameter that differs from the halftone parameters in the other spatial halftone techniques; and

means for repeatedly halftoning the input image, wherein the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques changes from the previously used spatial halftone technique after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising means for successively outputting the halftoned input images.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the means for repeatedly halftoning the input image using one of at least two spatial halftone techniques comprises means for repeatedly halftoning the input image wherein the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques changes from the previously used spatial halftone technique every time the input image is halftoned.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising means for reading the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques from a memory prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising means for determining the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques in real time prior to halftoning the input image.

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Claim 15 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the means for halftoning the input image using one of at least two spatial halftone techniques comprises means for halftoning the input image using at least one transformed halftone technique.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the at least two spatial halftone techniques are comprised of the same spatial halftone technique ~~method~~ having at least one differing halftone parameter.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the at least two spatial halftone techniques are comprised of different spatial halftone techniques ~~methods~~.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for halftoning an input image by performing the steps of:

halftoning the input image using one of at least two spatial halftone techniques, wherein each spatial halftone technique has at least one halftone parameter that differs from the halftone parameters in the other spatial halftone techniques; and

repeating the step of halftoning the input image, wherein the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques changes from the previously used spatial halftone technique after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

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Claim 19 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, further comprising program instructions for performing the step of successively outputting the halftoned input images.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the step of repeating the step of halftoning the input image using one of at least two spatial halftone techniques comprises the step of repeating the step of halftoning the input image by changing the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques from the previously used spatial halftone technique every time the input image is halftoned.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, further comprising program instructions for performing the step of reading the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques from a memory prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, further comprising program instructions for performing the step of determining the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques in real time prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 23 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the step of halftoning the input image using one of at least two spatial halftone techniques comprises the step of halftoning the input image using at least one transformed halftone technique.

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Claim 24 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the at least two spatial halftone techniques are comprised of the same spatial halftone ~~method~~ technique having at least one differing halftone parameter.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the at least two spatial halftone techniques are comprised of different spatial halftone techniques ~~methods~~.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein the halftoned input images are successively output so that each halftoned input image comprises a frame of an output image.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of determining a starting location within the input image for initiating a spatial halftone technique.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of offsetting the starting location from the previously used starting location after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The method of claim 28, wherein the starting location within the input image is offset from the previously used starting location every time the input image is halftoned.

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Claim 30 (Currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the step of halftoning the input image using one of at least two spatial halftone techniques comprises the step of halftoning the input image by tiling the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques over the input image.

Claim 31 (Canceled)

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the halftoned input images are successively output so that each halftoned input image comprises a frame of an output image.

Claim 33 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising means for determining a starting location within the input image for initiating a spatial halftone technique.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising means for offsetting the starting location from the previously used starting location after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the starting location within the input image is offset from the previously used starting location every time the input image is halftoned.

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Claim 36 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the means for halftoning the input image using one of at least two spatial halftone techniques comprises means for halftoning the input image by tiling the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques over the input image.

Claim 37 (Canceled)

Claim 38 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the halftoned input images are successively output so that each halftoned input image comprises a frame of an output image.

Claim 39 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, further comprising program instructions for performing the step of determining a starting location within the input image for initiating a spatial halftone technique.

Claim 40 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 39, further comprising program instructions for performing the step of offsetting the starting location from the previously used starting location after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

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Claim 41 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 40, wherein the starting location within the input image is offset from the previously used starting location every time the input image is halftoned.

Claim 42 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the step of halftoning the input image using one of at least two spatial halftone techniques comprises the step of halftoning the input image by tiling the one of at least two spatial halftone techniques over the input image.

Claim 43 (Canceled)

Claim 44 (Withdrawn): A method for halftoning an input image comprising the steps of:

determining a starting location within the input image for initiating a halftoning technique;

halftoning the input image by tiling one of at least one halftone techniques over the input image beginning at the starting location; and

repeating the steps of determining a starting location within the input image and halftoning the input image, wherein the starting location is offset from the previously used starting location after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

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Claim 45 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of successively outputting the halftoned input images.

Claim 46 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 45, wherein the halftoned input images are successively output so that each halftoned input image comprises a frame of an output image.

Claim 47 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 44, wherein the starting location within the input image is offset from the previously used starting location every time the input image is halftoned.

Claim 48 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of reading the one of at least one halftone techniques from a memory prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 49 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of determining the one of at least one halftone techniques in real time prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 50 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 44, wherein the step of halftoning the input image by tiling one of at least one halftone techniques over the input image comprises the step of halftoning the input image by tiling at least one transformed halftone technique over the input image.

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Claim 51 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 44, wherein the one of at least one halftone techniques is comprised of a spatial halftone technique.

Claim 52 (Withdrawn): An apparatus for halftoning an input image comprising:

means for determining a starting location within the input image for initiating a halftoning technique;

means for halftoning the input image by tiling one of at least one halftone techniques over the input image beginning at the starting location; and

means for repeatedly determining a starting location within the input image and halftoning the input image, wherein the starting location is offset from the previously used starting location after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

Claim 53 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 52, further comprising means for successively outputting the halftoned input images.

Claim 54 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the halftoned input images are successively output so that each halftoned input image comprises a frame of an output image.

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Claim 55 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the starting location within the input image is offset from the previously used starting location every time the input image is halftoned.

Claim 56 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 52, further comprising means for reading the one of at least one halftone techniques from a memory prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 57 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 52, further comprising means for determining the one of at least one halftone techniques in real time prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 58 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the means for halftoning the input image by tiling one of at least one halftone techniques over the input image comprises means for halftoning the input image by tiling at least one transformed halftone technique over the input image.

Claim 59 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the one of at least one halftone techniques is comprised of a spatial halftone technique.

Claim 60 (Withdrawn): A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for halftoning an input image by performing the steps of:

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determining a starting location within the input image for initiating a halftoning technique;

halftoning the input image by tiling one of at least one halftone techniques over the input image beginning at the starting location; and

repeating the steps of determining a starting location within the input image and halftoning the input image, wherein the starting location is offset from the previously used starting location after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

Claim 61 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 60, further comprising program instructions for performing the step of successively outputting the halftoned input images.

Claim 62 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 61, wherein the halftoned input images are successively output so that each halftoned input image comprises a frame of an output image.

Claim 63 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the starting location within the input image is offset from the previously used starting location every time the input image is halftoned.

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Claim 64 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 60, further comprising program instructions for reading the one of at least one halftone techniques from a memory prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 65 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 60, further comprising program instructions for determining the one of at least one halftone techniques in real time prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 66 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the step of halftoning the input image by tiling one of at least one halftone techniques over the input image comprises the step of halftoning the input image by tiling at least one transformed halftone technique over the input image.

Claim 67 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the one of at least one halftone techniques is comprised of a spatial halftone technique.